What's new at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.

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SHANNA SCHMIDT NUMISMATICS INC

Newsletter #222:

What's New at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.

Hello from Germany!
I've attached a lovely picture of the Christmas Market at Schwäbisch Hall, where my own family will converge for the holidays. I've survived my week of intensive auctions in Switzerland (and elsewhere online). Between NAC, NGSA, M&M, Stacks Bowers, Lugdunum, St. James, and more I'm having repetitive dreams of losing big coins in auctions now! Did anyone happen to see the CNN report on the gold Brutus auctioned off at NGSA? It isn't everyday that the ancient coin trade makes international news. While the coin didn't hammer as high as some hoped it would at NGSA, it did bring a hefty hammer of 1.5 million Swiss Francs. Nothing to balk at in my humble opinion. Moving forward, the auctions continue, but on a smaller scale until after the holidays. I do have some nice news of my own to report for NAC USA so please continue reading.

Launch of NAC USA Fixed Price List
I am pleased to announce a small but powerful group of fixed price items available from the NAC USA offices in Chicago. The coins all come from the private coin cabinet of the NAC London offices. If you are lucky enough to be able to visit their lovely headquarters, you will undoubtedly know that while they have two high quality floor auctions a year, they also possess a tremendously good stock of coins. They buy in other auctions as well as their own so coins are from their own sales and other houses as well. Our small selection are all priced in USD and available for immediate purchase. From the NAC USA website there is a pull down for Fixed Price items at the right. Here is a link

Similar to the SSNI website, there are sections on Greek, Roman Republic, Roman and Byzantine. It isn't a huge inventory so we don't have sections within each major group. As items sell we will renew the stock so there are always several coins to choose from.

We have set up payment for credit card via PayPal but feel free to send a bank check or do a wire transfer if you prefer. We won't complain naturally!

Obolos 35 (15 December)
The electronic sale of Nomos, Obolos, will host their 35th sale this coming Sunday. This is the third (and final) part of the fractional coins of Denyse Berénd (aka sans Pareille of Ancient Greek Fractions). You may recall that the first part of the series was done in a live floor sale and brought record prices. The prices for fractional coins have seen some record prices since then. There are still plenty of fractions that can purchased for lower costs but high quality examples are definitely rising in price. (As an aside, I have always liked fractions so I have a lot available on my website for those that like them. They tend to fall through the proverbial "cracks" (no pun intended)).

This sale is a robust 752 lots, many with pedigrees going back several years. Starting prices are low which should stimulate some robust bidding. We will be bidding in real time in this sale so if you need auction assistance please do get in touch.

Naville 93 (15 December)
I'm not super happy to see two web sales that I generally support on the same day but this seems to be the way things are now. I have been following Naville since their inception years ago. Naville was always the place to buy the large selection of Dattari or Clain-Stefanelli collection coins. As those collections have started to thin out or in the case of Clain-Stefanelli be finished, I do notice some really amazing coins being offered. I think the emphasis on so many online sales has started to positively influence many of these web auctions that the bigger houses hold in a positive way. The material is often equal to or sometimes nicer than what is in a floor sale. This is a lower cost way for auction houses to offer material than lavish floor auctions that cost a lot of money to support.

Naville has 1,039 lots in this upcoming sale. I'm copying the introduction from the Naville email I just got today as it gives a lot of good insight into what the sale has. I will be participating in this sale so please get in touch soon if you need assistance.

The first section of the sale starts with a small selection of staters of the Vindelici, a nice nomos of Metapontum, a well preserved nomos of Caulonia, a rare diobol or 1/6 stater of Syracuse (Ex Glendining sale 13 December 1963, Foreign amateur, 174. From the collection of a Mentor), a rare 1/5 stater of Carthage (?), a rare stater of king Archelaos, a rare double siglos of Phaselis and a rare tetradrachm of Mazakes imitating Athens

Caulonia, Athens, Aegina, Corinth, Seleucid Kings, Judaea, Phoenicia, Arabia and Egypt. Noteworthy in this section are a very nice tetradrachm of Messana (Ex Burgan 2003), an interesting tetradrachm of Syracuse and a well preserved tridrachm of Carthage (From the Matthew Curtis).

The Roman Provincial part of the sale includes rare and interesting specimens and a wonderful selection of rare coins of Alexandria, most of them from the Dattari collection.

The Roman selection boasts an interesting series of Roman Republican bronzes and a striking array of denarii. This includes an interesting selection of cast bronzes such as a well preserved triens (from a Swiss collection), a nice quadrigatus, a well preserved denarius of C. Varus, a nice denarius of C. Coelius Caldus (Ex NAC Spring sale 2021, 1090), a rare denarius of L. Livineius Regulus (Ex Crippa sale 1, 1971, 421) and a rare denarius of M. Antonius, Lucius Antonius with L. Cocceius Nerva (Privately purchased from Spink in 1970). The Imperial selection of the sale features an attractive series of Augustus and also an attractive selection of Roman gold, bronzes and silver coins such as a rare dupondius of Augustus, a well preserved dupondius of Livia, wife of Drusus (Ex Sotheby's sale 1898), a nice sestertius of Claudius, a nice sestertius of Nero, an interesting sestertius of Divus Galba (Ex NAC sale 27, 2004, 345), a well preserved sestertius of Trajan, a wonderful sestertius of Lucius Verus, a rare antoninianus of Aemilian, three very rare Exagium Solidi weights: one of Valentinian II, the second of Theodosius I and the latter of Arcadius and a nice solidus of Leo I even beyond an interesting selection of Solidi, Denari, Antoniniani, Sesterti, Dupondi, Asses and Folles. Very remarkable in this part are an aureus of Tiberius, a rare sestertius of Orbiana (Ex NAC Q, 2006, 1973 and NAC 78, 2014, 2355 sales. From the Mazzini collection) and a rare antoninianus of Laelianus.

The Byzantine part includes a very interesting selection solidi, neverthless the Medieval and Modern part of sale includes a very rare tremissis of Liutprand even beyond an interesting selection of large lot of several Italian mints.

Numismatisches Antiquariat Lang Auction 5 (8 January 2025)
A relative newcomer to the numismatic literature market, NA Lang (to shorten it is easier!) offers only numismatic books unlike some of the larger auction houses which branch out into books. This auction is 989 lots covering all areas of numismatics. Being a big buyer of books both here and abroad, my only recommendation is to inquire about shipping costs before embarking on purchasing. With the high cost of postage it might deter some of you. That said, many of these books are out of print and not easily obtainable anywhere so if you are lucky enough to win the the postage is a secondary concern.

While the scanned books are a great way to have your library wherever you go, I still believe the printed book is a real necessity for any serious coin collector.

NA Lang auctions can be accessed directly through the SixBid platform which will take you to Auex which it is hosted. Anyone needing assistance please do get in touch.

Coin of the week

Ionia, Smyrna. c. gk18233 BC
AR Tetradrachm, 16.79g (34mm, 12h).
Stephanophoric type. Metrodoros, magistrate. Turreted head of Tyche right / ZMYP/NAIΩN and magistrate's monogram within laurel wreath.

Pedigree: From the Gil Steinberg Collection, purchased from Superior Stamp & Coin Co. (their ticket included)

References: Milne, Silver, First Series, 5c, obv. die E; Milne, Autonomous, Period IX, 165c; SNG Copenhagen –; SNG Kayhan 592

Price: $6,250

gk1823

Buy Coin

The Stephanophoric, or wreath bearing, coinage issued by the Ionian League demonstrates the heights of Hellenistic Greek artistic achievement. While the issues of each city were iconographically distinct, the relatively homogeneous visual style has led numismatists to the conclusion that they all belong to one common regional series.

Those of Smyrna, placed both their ethnic monograph as well as the magistrates monogram within the eponymous reverse wreath. Clearly a derivative of the New Style Athenian coinage, the bust of Tyche wearing the turreted mural crown reflects Smyrna's defensive strength. Unfortunately for the city's residents, this strength quickly proved to be a paper tiger as encroaching Roman power quickly dominated the region.

Coin on my website

If you are interested in any other coins I have to offer please visit my website: shannaschmidt.com

Until next week!
Shanna

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